

PHNL040414

PCT/IB2004/051239

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CLAIMS:

1. Fluorescent lamp comprising a glass discharge vessel in which an ionizable and vaporizable filling is present, which discharge vessel is on two sides provided with a tubular end portion including a glass stem, wherein an exhaust tube extends axially outwardly from said stem for supplying and/or discharging gases during production of the lamp,
5 wherein a main electrode extends axially inwardly through the stem for generating and maintaining a discharge in the discharge vessel, and wherein the lamp comprises means including an auxiliary electrode for controlling the pressure of said filling in the vapor phase, despite changes in temperature thereof, characterized in that said auxiliary electrode is located on at least one end portion for generating and maintaining an auxiliary discharge
10 between the main electrode and the auxiliary electrode.
2. Fluorescent lamp according to claim 1, wherein the auxiliary electrode is located near an end of the exhaust tube facing away from the discharge vessel for generating and maintaining the auxiliary discharge through the exhaust tube acting as a discharge path
15 between the main electrode and the auxiliary electrode.
3. Fluorescent lamp according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the auxiliary electrode is fed by a DC current.
- 20 4. Fluorescent lamp according to claim 3, wherein the DC current can be varied in order to regulate the pressure of said filling in the vapor phase.
5. Fluorescent lamp according to claim 4, wherein the DC current can be varied dependent on an temperature on the cathode-side of the auxiliary electrode as measured by
25 means of a thermo-couple, detected change in light output, color change or burner voltage.
6. Fluorescent lamp according to claim 1, wherein the auxiliary electrode is connected to a passive transformer circuit comprising a coil which is electro-magnetically coupled to coils which are connected to the pole wires of the main electrode.

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7. Fluorescent lamp according any of the previous claims 1 – 6, wherein the electrodes are connected to a dimming circuit.

8. Method for manufacturing a fluorescent lamp, wherein a glass discharge vessel is on two sides provided with a tubular end portion including a glass stem, wherein a main electrode is fitted to extend axially inwardly through the stem for generating and maintaining a discharge in the discharge vessel, wherein an exhaust tube is fitted to extend axially outwardly from said stem, through which exhaust tube the discharge vessel is filled with an ionizable and vaporizable filling, and wherein the lamp is provided with means including an auxiliary electrode for controlling the pressure of said filling in the vapor phase, despite changes in temperature thereof, characterized in that said auxiliary electrode is fitted on at least one end portion for generating and maintaining an auxiliary discharge between the main electrode and the auxiliary electrode.